April 13, 2003

Wilmington House Tours 2003

Presented by:

The Friends of the
Wilmington Memorial Library

The Friends of the Wilmington Memorial Library is a volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to making the Wilmington Library the best it can be. The Friends support the library in areas where the budget and staff time are limited.

The Friends have provided adult programs, financially supported the children's Summer Reading Program, furnished chairs and couches, and even provided the media return box so that patrons can return videos and DVD's after hours.

The Friends provide books to the homebound, holiday decorations, museum passes and technology. Please consider joining the Friends as we continue to improve our town's best resource for all ages.

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Membership Categories:

_____Student/Senior	$ 5	_____Lifetime-Individual	$150
_____Individual	$ 10	_____Lifetime-Family	$250
_____Family	$ 25	_____Contribution	$___
_____Patron	$ 50		
_____Benefactor	$100		

Welcome!

The Friends of the Wilmington Memorial Library welcome you to our first House Tour, an event that we are hoping to present annually. The owners of five single family homes and two apartments style dwellings have graciously invited us into their homes. The homes represent a wide range of architectural styles and eras. The oldest home on this year's Tour was built - partially - in the late seventeenth century while construction was completed on the Tour's "youngest" home in the late twentieth! The Wilmington Arts Center at 219 Middlesex Avenue, which will serve as our Hospitality Center today (see page 3), has its own fascinating 150 year history. We think you will see and learn a lot today!

The House Tour Committee of the Friends of the Library could not have put this event together without the encouragement and support of the community. We would like to thank first and foremost the generous and hospitable families who have opened their homes to us for this tour. We would also like to thank: The Wilmington Arts Council for the use of the Arts Center; the Friends of the Reading Public Library for their ideas and encouragement - they know how this should be done; Adele Passmore for sharing her knowledge of Wilmington's history with us as this brochure was prepared; Rapid Reproduction for managing so wonderfully all the print jobs required in such an undertaking; the sponsors who supported this project by placing ads in our brochure; and library staff who assisted with ticket sales as well as other aspects of the project.

Lastly, we would like to thank you for joining us today on our House Tour. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Have Fun!

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1 *219 Middlesex Avenue*

The Wilmington Arts Center was originally constructed in the Greek Revival design. Built in 1842, it served as home to the Free Will Baptist Society. In the late 1800's it was altered to accommodate town offices. Also briefly used by high school students and the public library, this building remained Wilmington's Town Hall until 1985 when the Wilmington Arts Council transformed it into an Arts Center.

This building will serve as hospitality center for the House Tour from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the tour. Refreshments and restrooms will be available. In addition, there will be a wonderful art display by local artists. Tickets for the tour may be purchased at the hospitality center on the day of the tour for $25.

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2 Avalon Oaks (via 40 Ballardvale St.)

Avalon Oaks, Wilmington's first apartment complex, is a 204 community of luxury rental units. The complex was built in 1999 and consists of various size rental units. A two bedroom, two bathroom model apartment will be open for the tour. In addition, the community's amenities (the clubhouse, fitness center and outdoor pools) will also be available to tour.

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3 *216 Wildwood Street*

On Buck's corner - a title given many years ago to the intersection of Woburn and Wildwood Streets - is the oldest house in Wilmington, known variously as the Ephraim Buck House, the Roger Buck House, the Benjamin Buck House or the Buck Homestead. This home is part of an early farming area settled by the Buck family in the late seventeenth century. The rear portion was constructed by Roger Buck and his son, Ephraim, in 1671 or 1672, while the front is believed to have been built in the late eighteenth century around the time of the Revolutionary War. The house remained in the Buck family until at least the late nineteenth century.

Architecturally, the house is known as "First Period" with later Federal alterations. It is two stories high with a broad gabled roof and two central chimneys. Inside the house are three staircases, six working fireplaces, two baker's ovens, a

beehive oven, original stone floors, 18 inch wide pine floors and exposed hand-hewn beams. In the attic, a shute and tack marks (for drying purposes) provide some evidence that the house was once used as a "hophouse."

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Friends Book Sale 2003.....

.....will be here before you know it! Stop by the Friends of the Wilmington Memorial Library Book Sale to pick up summer reading materials for yourself, your children, your grandchildren, everybody!

DATES: Thursday, June 19th - FRIENDS NIGHT!
(If you're not a member, join at the door!)
- 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

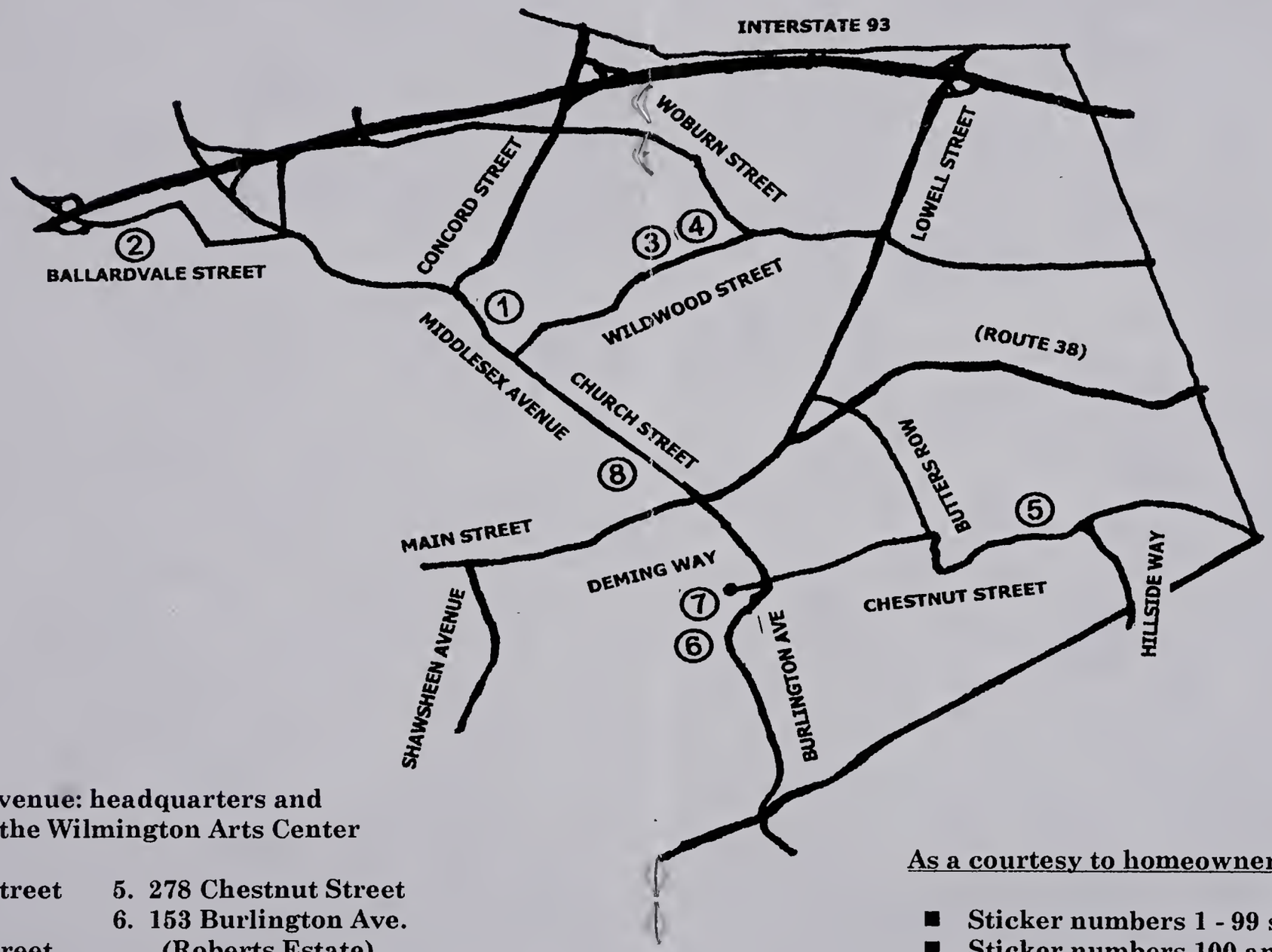
Friday, June 20th and Saturday, June 21st
- 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

As always, we have a wonderful selection of fiction and nonfiction books, as well as children's books, videos, books on tape and games. At prices of 50 cents for paperbacks and one dollar for hardcovers, the Friends Book Sale is hard to beat!

All proceeds benefit the
Wilmington Memorial Library

Wilmington House Tours 2003

Sunday, April 13, 2003
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



OPEN HOUSES:

1. 219 Middlesex Avenue: headquarters and refreshments at the Wilmington Arts Center

2. 40 Ballardvale Street (Avalon Oaks)
3. 216 Wildwood Street (Buck's Corner)
4. 571 Woburn Street (Darius Buck House)
5. 278 Chestnut Street
6. 153 Burlington Ave. (Roberts Estate)
7. Deming Way
8. 80 Church Street

<u>As a courtesy to homeowners, please:</u>

- Sticker numbers 1 - 99 start at houses # 2 - 4
- Sticker numbers 100 and above start at houses # 5 - 8
- No children under the age of 12
- No spiked heels
- Have your sticker visible at each home

Summer Reading Program Begins Wednesday, June 11th

The Wilmington Memorial Library will be celebrating "art" this summer using Massachusetts' cooperative Summer Reading Program theme:

Read! Think! Create! @ your library

Be sure to receive your FREE Summer Reading Kit, funded by your local library, the Massachusetts Regional Library systems, and others.

* *

LAUGHTER IN THE LIBRARY WITH DAVID POLANSKY

The family cabaret, *Laughter in the Library*, will be presented by award-winning composer, David Polansky, on Wednesday, **June 11th** at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Polansky performs a fabulous rainbow of original song styles (funny and serious), explaining how he creates each work and improvises songs on the spot.

Ask questions, sing, dance and generally "let it all out!"

Laughter in the Library is planned as the opening event of this year's summer reading program. ***Read! Think! Create! @ your library*** in 2003!

Tickets for this concert may be reserved by visiting or calling the library's Children's Room at (978) 694-2098 beginning on Thursday, May 29th.

4 571 Woburn Street

The Darius Buck house was built around 1794 or shortly thereafter. Darius Buck's uncle was the Benjamin Buck who lived in the neighboring "Buck Homestead." Because much of the property in the neighborhood stayed in the Buck family for hundreds of years, real estate records are often vague or missing entirely, but it is believed that Benjamin Buck's brother, Jonathan, built this home for himself and his new bride shortly after their marriage. Jonathan's son, Darius, was the town tax collector and he lived in this house his entire life.

This house has also been known as the "Henny Penny House" for Henry Wilson Sargent, Darius's great-nephew and probably the last Buck descendant to live in the house. Henry was a local character who, in the early twentieth century, used a side room of the house as a bicycle repair shop, charging one penny per minute to repair bicycles. His customers knew that he

would be careful not to bill them for time spent chatting instead of working but he also expected prompt payment when the job was completed!

This home is in the Federalist style and has 6 over 9 pane windows (many with original glass), a dutch/baking oven in the dining room, original pine floors and banisters with wooden dowels and hand-hewn nails.

This property remained in the Buck family until 1956.

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5 278 Chestnut Street

Down the street from Wilmington's historic Baldwin Apple Monument sits a beautiful Victorian style home, custom built in 1998 by the current occupants. Situated on six acres, this 6,000 s.f. house includes a three car garage, five bedrooms, three full and two half baths, two family rooms, walk-in closets, plus an in-law apartment.

The visitor will see a spectacular circular staircase in the foyer. Additional special features include a granite fireplace, beautiful cherry bars in both the dining room and the kitchen and a whirlpool in the bathroom.

Taking advantage of the home's beautiful six acre lot, the owner has installed a water garden and a pool with cabana behind the building. All in all, this is a fascinating home to visit.

6 *153 Burlington Avenue*

The Roberts estate, known as "The Boulders," was constructed between 1906 and 1912 by Frederick H. Roberts, owner of Apollo Candy Manufacturing Company of Boston. Before building could begin, Mr. Roberts needed to purchase sixty acres of land, move three houses and tear a fourth down in order to get the house lot he wanted. A stonemaster was required to achieve the home's distinctive look. About fifteen men worked for over two years collecting stones - all from the Roberts property - and building the house.

This house is in the Tudor-style, a popular design for early twentieth century homes. It features a boulder base, porte-cochere, an arched stone entry and a half timber and gambrel roof. In the dining room of the home are hand painted oil on canvas murals applied to the walls by Louise Parsons in 1915. These murals depict New England scenes and are titled

"Squantam in Quincy," "Marblehead Harbor," and "Gay Head in Martha's Vineyard."

The house remained in the Roberts Family until the middle of the twentieth century.

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7 Deming Way

The Wilmington Housing Authority, formed in 1950, constructed forty units of elderly housing during the early 1950's. All are a one bedroom townhouse style. During 1988-1989 a two story unit (Deming Way extension) consisting of several one bedroom units and one four bedroom congregate unit, was built. Currently, a total of 65 citizens reside in this community. All residents enjoy privacy in their own unit with access to a community room for group functions. We will be able to visit a residence in both the original and the new area of this complex.

8 80 Church Street

This home is considered part of Wilmington's Victorian district, a section of Church Street, developed in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. These homes were probably built after 1875 although the street was referred to in town documents as early as the mid nineteenth century as the "new road leading from Wilmington Center to the Boston and Lowell Depot." Along this stretch of road can be found several examples of what Victorians called "cottages." Its also interesting to note that during the Victorian period Clark Street, the road which runs alongside this home, was known as the "bridle path" that connected the "new road" (Church Street) with the "road to Andover," now known as Middlesex Avenue.

Before entering the house, pay particular notice to the "little red box" on the front of the building. Thomas Buckle, a former owner of the house and a fire alarm salesman, had this alarm installed on the house as a sample of his wares for prospective customers.

At 80 Church Street there are seven rooms. Of particular interest is an unusually large bathroom; apparently, when earlier residents of this home installed indoor plumbing, they converted an existing bedroom into the bathroom. Since this new bathroom replaced an outhouse the occupants had been using previously, sacrificing a bedroom probably seemed a small price to pay for acquiring modern conveniences! Visitors will also want to note the more recent remodeling and addition to the first floor.

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